

DPD 3310-62

23 May 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Meeting with [ ] 22 May, Regarding State Department  
Position Paper

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1. [ ] and the undersigned met in [ ]  
[ ] office on 22 May 1962 to review and formulate comments on the  
State Department position paper and instructions to United States delegates  
attending the May 28 Geneva meetings of the Legal Subcommittee of the United  
Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

2. It was concluded that this paper, generally, was sound and the  
positions, as stated, if adhered to, would pose no threat or embarrassment  
to continuation of United States satellite reconnaissance activities.  
However, two possible vulnerabilities were noted in the position paper  
which it was felt required additional caveats so that there would be no  
misunderstanding on the part of the United States delegation, particularly  
those who are operationally cleared:

a. There is no provision in the working paper (Tab E)  
pertaining to the USSR Proposal to Ban Military Reconnaissance  
Satellites for a U. S. position in the event the Soviets are  
adamant about such a resolution and make its adoption a pre-  
condition to any further discussions. It was agreed that the  
U. S. position in this contingency, at least from the CIA stand-  
point, should be one of no compromise, even if this should lead  
to a break-off of the discussions. At the very least, it was  
concluded that if such an impasse were to occur, the U. S. posi-  
tion would be maintained and any resulting inter-departmental  
disagreements in Washington would probably have to be referred  
to the President for decision.

b. It was concluded that the operationally cleared  
delegates should be cautioned that the working paper on satellite  
reconnaissance, which argues that such activities are legal and  
non-aggressive in nature, should not under any circumstances be  
interpreted as permission to acknowledge or even suggest that any

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operations of this character are currently in progress. All references to satellite reconnaissance should be expressed in a manner which would suggest that the United States is thinking only in terms of the future.

3. These views were subsequently made known by [redacted] to Mr. Howard Furnas of the State Department, a delegate to the Geneva meetings. He indicated that he was generally in agreement with these conclusions. It is also proposed that these views should be expressed to Ambassador Plimpton and Mr. Leonard Meeker of the State Department prior to their departure for Geneva. We will have an opportunity to do this on 23 May at the NPIC briefing for Ambassador Stevenson.

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